1: Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AVI Kashmir AVI

slack, one harvest having been got in and seed-time for the next not having come. The plan is to provide what is called a sarná, a goat-skin carefully taken off and carefully closed wherever an opening occurred; the end of one fore leg only is left open for inflating; the skin is blown out tight, and the end fastened up with a bit of string; to the hind legs are attached loops through which the man puts his bare legs, and the stiff inflated goat-skin comes up in front of his chest; then, jumping into the river, the man balances himself on the sarná, lying almost flat along it; by aid of his hands and a peculiar motion of his feet he can swim along at a fine rate, and fears not to trust himself to the waves and the rapids of the swollen river. Standing at a spot whence he knows the current will force him out to mid-channel, he waits till a log of timber comes opposite him, and, dashing in, he soon reaches it, and then, by the exertion both of force and skill, guides it to a sheltered nook where it may be landed and hauled up. The places convenient for this are known, and men are kept ready at each to receive the logs as they are caught, while a munshí is by to measure the timber, and give a note of its length and girth to the swimmer, who swims away with it in his turban to look out for another log. The notes representing the day's or the week's work he will bring at his leisure to the office at Akhnúr, and receive payment in proportion to the cubic contents of the timber he has brought in.

There are some thirty stations for this work within the space mentioned, including several in the branch channels below Akhnúr. A log that passes the upper ones will pretty surely be caught below; even at night, between the late summer evening and the early dawn, the timber can hardly get through the whole space before some early bird is down upon it to bring it in.

Some of the timber comes from as far away as the Chamba territory, above Pádar, where the Panjáb Forest Department fell it, having taken a lease of the Chamba Raja's forests. Some was felled by the Maharaja's Forest Department, of which for a few years I had the management. Some other belongs to contractors, to whom the right of felling has been sold. These different

1: Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

423 properties are recognized by the marks that are cut on the logs
313 in the forest; each owner, having his agent at Akhnūr and other landing-places, manages to collect his own; the swimmers (*tārū* is the word they are called by) bring in all indiscriminately, and the payments made by any munshī will be adjusted afterwards.

In this way thousands of logs are caught every season; 20,000 logs belonging to the Maharaja's Forest Department have been secured in one year; these would average 20 or 25 cubic feet of timber, and would have a value of more than 20,000*l*.

313 Many logs get fast in the middle course of the river, become stranded, or fixed between rocks, or otherwise entangled, and are left by the receding flood. For these, on the waters lessening in the autumn, men are sent up along the river bank, to disengage them and roll them to where they may again be started, or to a place whence they will be carried down by the next summer's flood.

The next stage in the timber-business is to concentrate the logs, especially to bring down to Akhnūr those that have been caught at the upper stations. This is done on the force of the current slightly moderating (as it will when a few cloudy days lessen the snow-melting), by forming small rafts of from two to four logs each, and guiding them down between the projecting cliffs of the narrow channel, and over the successive rapids that rock-ledges at intervals have made. It is a service of some danger. Two men guide the raft with bamboo poles, ready, with their sarnās, to take to the torrent if by chance the raft should be forced against the rock. When this happens the logs will be separated, and if the men have the good fortune to escape, they will again make to them to bring them in separately, and claim the wages which for this, too, are fixed as by measurement. Great nerve and pluck are often shown in the management of these rafts, and, dangerous
[438] though the work is, accidents are not common. Collected at Akhnūr, the timber is either sold there or made up into the larger rafts—of 50 or 60 logs—of which the lower course of the river will allow the passage, and floated down some 50 miles, to Wazīrābād, on the Grand Trunk Road, whence it will be distributed over the Panjāb.

1: Drew G-3 (1862-1878) 1878 AVI Kashmir AVI

The felled timber used to be very nearly all deodar, that being the wood that stands best against the destructive white ant; latterly, I believe, they have been trying *Pinus excelsa* for sleepers for the railway, and some number of that tree has been cut for the purpose; young trees of *Pinus longifolia* have always been sent down for the roofing of the small houses of the natives. But beside what has been felled, a considerable, in some years a wonderful, amount of waifs arrive by the river, of trees that have fallen and been carried down by snow-slips, or in any way whatever have found their way to the river side. This is called *rer*; it belongs by old custom to the government of the territory in which it may first be caught and brought to bank. The Maharaja gets the lion's share of this on the Chinâb, but a little may pass through to the British territory. Felled timber that has through carelessness remained unmarked goes the same way. A few trees of pencil cedar from forests high up the mountains find their way down; they are generally ten or twenty feet long and four or five feet girth at bottom, quickly tapering.

Besides the regular gradual rise of the river by the snow melting, induced by a bright sun shining on the high mountains, there are apt to come, in the rainy season, more sudden floods, which may bring the waters up to a much higher level than they reach by the other mode of rising. That first kind of rise is called "charhâ"; the flood is called "har." In the *charhâ* the water is cold, coming fresh from the snows, and its colour is milky from the glacier-mud. The *har* is brought on by rain; two or three days' continuous rain over any large area of the hills is enough to cause such a flood. According to the area it originates in—to the character of the rocks occupying that area—is the colour of the water black, brown, or red. It comes suddenly and as quickly subsides, lasting in general but a few hours.

While the steady rise and continuance of the waters in the *charhâ* is most favourable to timber-catching, the *har* may destroy all the work that has been done. The river will sometimes rise to the timber-heaps in the store-places, and float off

public works (30·8 lakhs), military (13·8 lakhs), privy purse and courts (10·9 lakhs), scientific and minor departments (2·1 lakhs), and land revenue (8·1 lakhs). The State is very prosperous, and has more than 46 lakhs invested in securities of the Government of India. 652

Currency. The British rupee is now the only rupee used in the State. Previously three coins were current: namely, the *Akbar* rupee, value 8 annas, bearing the letters J.H.S. (these letters have given rise to many stories, but they were really a mint-mark to indicate Jammu, Hari Singh); the *chilki* rupee, value 10 British annas; the *Nānak shāhi* rupee, value 12–16 British annas. 436

Weights and measures. The *Kharwar* or ass-load, which has for centuries past been the standard of weight, is equivalent to 177½ lb. The word is usually abbreviated to *Khar*. Land measures are calculated not by length and breadth, but by the amount of seed required by certain areas of rice cultivation. It has been found by measurements that the *Kharwar* of land—that is, the rice area which is supposed to require a *Kharwar's* weight of rice-seed—exactly corresponds to 4 British acres. For length, the following measure is used:— 809

1 *girw* = 1¼ inches.
16 *girw* = 1 *gaz*.
20 *girw* = 1 *gaz*, in measuring *pashmina* cloth.

There is no sealed yard measure in Srinagar, but from frequent experiment it was found that the *gaz* of 16 *girw* is about ¾ inch longer than the British yard.

Land revenue. Tenures. The land revenue system has been described as *ryotwāri* in ruins. It is probable that the methods of administration introduced under Akbar led to a fictitious joint responsibility, but this was never fully accepted. The land was regarded as the absolute property of the State, and the cultivators were merely tenants holding from year to year, with no rights in the waste land. Within the village, however, the cultivators recognised the acquisition of what may be called a right of occupancy acquired by long prescription (*mirāsi*). At the settlement which commenced in 1887 this custom was accepted by the State, and permanent hereditary rights were conferred on persons who agreed to pay the assessment fixed on the land entered in their names. The right is not alienable by sale or mortgage, and the holder is called an *asāmi*. Besides the ordinary village occupants there were grantees, but these have gradually been converted into *asāmis*. 423 651

Settlement. Under the local Sultāns the State share of produce was 651

(iv) **Cultivated area.**—Of the total area of the State, 3.6 per cent. is cultivable and 4.9 per cent. is actually cultivated. The percentage of irrigated area to cultivated area is 35.1. The percentage of gross cultivated area under rice is 19.3; under wheat 19.5; under barley 0.3; under bajra 3.9; under maize 29.6; and under other food crops including pulses 10.7.

Dialects.—The principal languages spoken in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces are Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi, Gojri and Pahari. Bhotia and Shina are spoken in Ladakh and Gilgit. Owing to the existence of natural barriers, such as high and vast mountain ranges severing the Indus valley from the rest of the country, Bhotia and Shina languages have remained localised within their territorial boundaries and are not understood in other parts of the country.

Land Tenures.—Prior to 1933, land in Kashmir Province and in the Frontier districts was held by ***zamindars*** either in "***Haq-i-zamini***" or as Tenants-at-will and in some cases also as Occupancy tenants. Under ***Haq-i-Zamini***, all the land was owned by the State, the actual holders or ***zamindars*** had the right of occupancy as against the State as long as they paid the dues, but had no right of alienation by sale or mortgage.

Transfers were, however, permitted within the municipal limits of Srinagar and in Anantnag, Shopian, Bijbihara, Pampore, Sopore, Baramulla and Muzaffarabad towns.

Tenants-at-will held land subject to the will of the proprietor, who could eject them at any time. In Kashmir, tenants-at-will included a large number of ***zamindars*** who had been found in 1924 to have encroached on huge ***khalsa*** areas and to have brought them under cultivation. Occupancy tenants had the right of occupancy of land under a proprietor or an ***asami***. They could not be ejected without special reasons, nor could rent on the land be altered at the will of the landlord. Their right was hereditary, and could be sold with the permission of the landlord.

Occupancy tenants were of two kinds, *viz.*, (1) those who held land direct from a land-holder or the State, and (2) those who held land under occupancy tenants of class (1). In Kashmir, occupancy tenants consisted mainly of tenants who held land at the first Settlement,

923 and had since been declared by a competent court to be such. They were granted *ziamni* rights in subsequent Settlements.

In Ramnagar, Bhimbhi and Mirpur Tehsils of Jammu Province also, almost all lands were owned by the State, but the land-holders were *mafiguzars*. They enjoyed the right of selling and mortgaging land. In other parts of Jammu Province, some of the lands were held by the Government, and there were numerous occupancy tenants in addition to tenants-at-will. The remaining lands in which the people enjoyed proprietary rights were parcelled out for cultivation to tenants, who had either occupancy rights, or rights of tenants-at-will.

In 1933, His Highness was pleased to grant proprietary rights to *zamindars* in Kashmir Province and the Frontier district as well as to occupancy tenants in Jammu Province, in order to create in them a greater sense of self-respect, and self-reliance. The payment of *nazarana* was waived, as a matter of grace. In order, however, to check alienations in favour of non-agricultural classes, the Land Alienation Act and the Right of Prior Purchase Act were enacted, and alienation of land by the land-holder beyond one-fourth of his holding except with the permission of the Wazir Wazarat was prohibited for the first ten years.

No occupancy tenants under the Government exist in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces now. But such tenants exist in the Frontier district, where the *zamindars* were previously allowed to break waste land up to 20 kanals in each individual case. On the recommendation of the Glancy Commission, this limit was removed. Further, lands brought under cultivation prior to S. 1990-91 (October-November 1933) were ordered to be shown as lands held under proprietary rights and lands brought under cultivation subsequent to that date to be shown as lands held under occupancy rights of the cultivators. The *zamindars* of the Frontier district are thus the only occupancy tenants directly under the Government at present.

651 **Settlement.**—The assessment of land revenue, though one of the many functions of the Settlement Department, was perhaps the most important. The standard for fixing revenue in places where the Government did not enjoy

proprietary rights was the same as in the Punjab, namely "half net assets" or half the profits of the proprietor from land cultivated by tenants-at-will. To arrive at the percentage represented by "half net assets," some deductions were made from the gross produce, 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. altogether, on account of customary payments from the common harvest heap before division. This left the divisible produce at about 90 per cent. At the prevailing rent-rate of half the produce, the net profits of the proprietors would be 45 per cent. of the gross produce, which could leave the share of the State at 22½ per cent. Where cash rents were common, which was seldom the case, another set of "half net assets" was obtainable by the simple process of dividing by two the average net cash rent per acre of a given class of land. Where the State held proprietary rights in all land, as in Kashmir, it was in theory entitled to half the gross produce, which it actually took before the first regular Settlement, but this was changed subsequently, and the standard fixed at 30 per cent. of the gross produce. 651

Record-of-Rights.—The "*Misal-i-Haqqiyat*" or the Record-of-Rights incorporates in a continuous form all facts relating to each holding and field, and these include, among other things, areas, class of soil, source of irrigation, number and kind of trees, rights of holders and tenants, rents, revenue and cesses and statement of special village customs and of rights in irrigation. Details of *jagirs* and other revenue-free grants and genealogical tables of right-holders are also incorporated in the Record-of-Rights. Changes in the Record-of-Rights in respect of revenue or right-holders, are recorded after every four years in what is known as quadrennial or *Chaunsala Jamabandi*. 423 651

Civil Divisions.—For purposes of civil administration, the State is divided into three parts :— 631

(1) the province of Jammu,
(2) the province of Kashmir, and
(3) the district of Ladakh.

Consequent on the transfer on lease of the Trans-Indus *Ilaqas* to the Government of India, the Cis-Indus area comprising Tehsil Bunji which was formerly included in the Gilgit district was amalgamated with the Ladakh district during S. 1992-93 (1935-36). It has, however, now been placed under a Revenue Assistant and is included in the province of Kashmir. The heads of the revenue

CHAPTER IV.—MODERN JAMMU & KASHMIR—1925-45.

With the accession on 25th September 1925 of His Highness Raj Rajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Shri Maharaja Hari Singhji Bahadur, Isder Mahinder, Sipar-i-Saltanat-i-Inglishia to the throne, a new era in the history of the State begins. His Highness is the great-grandson of Maharaja Gulab Singhji and son of the late General Raja Sir Amar Singhji, younger brother of the late Maharaja. Born in 1895, he received education under a number of qualified European and Indian instructors. In 1908, he joined the Mayo College, Ajmer. After completing the full course of studies there, he received training in the Imperial Cadet Corps, Dehra Dun. His late Highness appointed him Commander-in-Chief of State forces in 1915, before he had attained the age of twenty. He took an active part in the training and equipping of the units despatched for service in the Great War and in sending reinforcements to keep them up to the sanctioned war strength. In 1922, he was appointed Senior Member of the then State Council, and a number of reforms were initiated by him in this capacity.

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On the occasion of the *Rajtilak* ceremony, which was performed at Jammu in February 1926, in the presence of distinguished guests including several Ruling Princes, His Highness announced a number of boons. One of the boons conferred on the land-holders the right to cut down and utilize all royal coniferous trees on areas assessed to land revenue; another extended from 3 months to 12 months in the year the right of the villagers to remove dead and fallen timber; and a third bestowed certain rights on village communities with regard to the lands of land-holders dying without issue. The most important of the boons was the bestowal of *Malaba* lands on village communities which had no *shamlat* (village commons) up to cent. per cent. of their holdings. His Highness also sanctioned on the occasion the extension of technical education to certain localities in both the provinces; the opening of more schools and hospitals; the provision of a special allotment every year for the supply of

543 per cent. of the total strength of services. What is more
497 important to note is the fact that out of the total increase of 2,515 in the strength of all services, the share of the Muslims was 2,236 or 76.7 per cent., as against 679 or 23.3 per cent., the share of other communities.

497 In the matter of Government purchases, preference is
491 given to local firms. The Department of Civil Supplies, which has been established to arrange supplies for Government Departments, maintains a list of registered local firms. Preference is also given to locally manufactured goods when available, for use by Government Departments.

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543 Following the outbreak of communal trouble in the
497 State in 1931, His Highness was pleased to appoint a Commission, with Mr. B. J. Glancy of the Political
933 Department of the Government of India (now H. E. Sir B. J. Glancy, Governor of the Punjab) as President and with four non-official representatives of Hindus and Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir Provinces as members to inquire into the grievances, religious and secular, of different communities. The Committee made a number of recommendations, which His Highness was pleased to accept. The more important of these related to :—(1) religious places that had passed into the hands of the Government, (2) recruitment of different communities in Government services, and (3) grant of proprietary rights, accompanied by controlling legislation, in regard to lands of which the ownership was held by the State. As regards the first, Government ordered the restoration of the places to the community which was able to substantiate its claims to them. Regarding the second, minimum qualifications were fixed by which educationally less advanced communities could secure an adequate share in the services. Regarding the third, His Highness not only granted proprietary rights to the [illegible], but also waived the condition of payment of [illegible]. This concession represented in money value an amount of over Rs. 20 lakhs. Recently, this concession has been extended to villages transferred to the State from His Highness' Private Department.

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926 decrees by civil court. About 4,000 co-operative credit societies with a working capital of about Rs. 1 crore
[946] provide facilities for credit to agriculturists. The Praja
• 927 Sabha has a good record of progressive laws passed ever since its inception. ½ The Right of Prior Purchase Act has imposed restrictions on the alienation of agricultural lands, and recognised the right of pre-emption among agriculturists in respect of such land. The Land Alienation Act has further protected the interests of the agriculturists, and stopped transfer of agricultural land to non-agriculturists.
926 The agricultural classes have been defined. The Aid to the Agriculturists and Land Improvement Act provides for grants of loans for improvement of land and relief of distress and the repayment of these loans by easy instalments. In special circumstances under this Act, the payment of particular instalments of a loan may be suspended
951 and even free aid may be granted. The *Kaksharai* Act removed inequalities in the incidence of the *kaksharai* tax, and granted exemption to owners of livestock in respect of particular animals of a given age. Before the enactment of this measure, relief had been granted to owners of livestock by executive action in a number of ways. The *sambardari* cess formerly realised on
952 nomadic animals was remitted. Proprietary rights have been conferred on the *asamis* in Kashmir Province and in the Frontier districts, as well as on occupancy tenants in Jammu Province. But the one concession which has substantially added to the resources of village communities throughout the State is the *Rajiilal* boon already mentioned regarding grant of *khalsa* land to the *zamindars* concerned up to cent. per cent. of their holdings. Several *ailans* have been issued to ensure that the boon is properly
953 implemented. Reference has also been made to the extension of rights of the inhabitants of villages in regard to products of forests bordering on these villages. Recently His Highness' Government have further extended these rights on the recommendation of the Forest Enquiry Committee. Millions of cubic feet of timber and fire-wood are every year removed by *zamindars* from the forests free of charge. Forest products are also sold to *zamindars* at concession rates. Forest industries
[963] and rearing of cocoons provide employment to tens of thousands in the villages.

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½ [In 1934 -- Analyst]